



CALIFORNIA
CONSERVATION
CORPS

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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California Conservation Corps Honored With National Award For Tree Work in the Sierra

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- *The Corps Network Names CCC's "Save The Sierra" as Project of the Year*
 - *Award cites positive experience for Corpsmembers; community improvements*
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SACRAMENTO, Calif. - The California Conservation Corps will receive a 2018 Project of the Year Award from The Corps Network in recognition of the CCC's Save The Sierra project.

This prestigious award is presented annually by The Corps Network to select organizations within its membership of more than 130 Corps across the country. Awardees are chosen via a rigorous application and peer review process.

"Our Corpsmembers and their supervisors worked tremendously hard in making sure the Save The Sierra program made significant and positive impact on mitigating the damage done to California's forest by drought and pest infestation," said Bruce Saito, director of the California Conservation Corps.

Projects recognized have undertaken especially influential or innovative endeavors within the past year and are noteworthy for their ability to provide both a positive experience for Corpsmembers and meaningful improvements to the community.

The Save The Sierra project seeks to prevent further environmental devastation from the drought and bark beetle infestation especially in underserved communities.

The project began in January 2017 with 50 Corpsmembers trained and certified in using chainsaws to remove thousands of diseased trees to promote a healthier forest. Removing diseased and dead trees decreases resource competition and improves the tree's natural defense against bark beetles.

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Staff from The Corps Network, as well as outside reviewers from member Corps, select the winners of this award.

Corps are local, state or national programs providing young adults and recent veterans opportunities to serve their community, advance their education and obtain in-demand skills. Serving in crews or individual positions, Corpsmembers spend up to a year working on projects that address conservation and infrastructure concerns, wildfires and natural disasters, outdoor recreation access, and a range of other issues.

“All our member Corps and Corpsmembers make significant contributions to communities across the country,” said Mary Ellen Sprenkel, CEO of The Corps Network.

“With the Project of the Year Award, we have the opportunity to celebrate extraordinary individuals and programs from our network and shed light on the vast capabilities of Corps; our awardees are symbols of the impact of national service. The Corps Network is humbled to represent such inspiring and impactful programs as The California Conservation Corps,” she said.

Four winners of the Project of the Year Award will be honored at a ceremony on February 14th on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC as part of The Corps Network’s 2018 national conference, “The Trail Ahead.”

Additionally, the Save The Sierra project is recognized as the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps “Project of the Year” for 2017.

For more information about the conference, please visit www.corpsnetwork.org/national-conference. For more information about The California Conservation Corps, please visit ccc.ca.gov

About The CCC:

The California Conservation Corps is a state agency offering young men and women a paid opportunity to improve California's natural resources and communities. The CCC also responds to emergencies such as fires, floods, weather and agricultural disasters.

Created by Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. in 1976, the CCC is the oldest and largest conservation corps in the nation.

The CCC has corpsmember openings every month for young adults ages 18 to 25 and veterans to age 29. For information on joining, call 1-800-952-JOBS or visit ccc.ca.gov

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About The Corps Network:

The Corps Network provides leadership and support to over 130 of America's Service and Conservation Corps. Through advocacy and providing Corps access to funding opportunities and expert guidance, The Corps Network annually enables over 25,000 Corpsmembers to strengthen communities, improve the environment and transform their lives through service. To learn more about The Corps Network, please visit www.corpsnetwork.org